



STATE OF WASHINGTON

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES  
P.O. Box 45040, Olympia, Washington 98504-5040

October 28, 2009

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Department of Social and Health Services, Children's Administration, would like to bring to your attention the enclosed proposed agency request legislation, Z-0781.2, Reviewing Autopsy Reports.

This proposal would amend RCW 68.50.105. The Children's Administration currently does not have the statutory authority to request autopsy reports for children who may have died as a result of abuse or neglect. These autopsy reports are critical to the child protective service's investigation to assess the safety of other children in the home and in the statutorily required review of cases involving a child fatality. The Children's Administration is required to review cases where a child has died unexpectedly and the family has received services within 12 months of the child's death. The required reviews must be completed within 180 days of the child's death.

The inability to receive autopsy reports of a child death that is under investigation for alleged abuse or neglect is a barrier for the Children's Administration in ensuring the health and safety of other children in the home and assessing the practice and service delivery in those cases where the Children's Administration provided services to the family. The inability to receive these autopsy reports of child deaths also compromises the Children's Administration's ability to complete and post statutorily required fatality reviews in required time frames.

The Children's Administration would like to invite you to a meeting to discuss this request legislation. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 12, 2009, 1:30 p.m., in the Lookout Conference Room on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor of OB-2. Directions to OB-2 are enclosed with this letter.

If you are unable to attend this meeting, please provide any comments or questions to David Del Villar Fox at (360) 902-8016 or email, [foda300@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:foda300@dshs.wa.gov).

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

David Del Villar Fox  
Legislative Liaison  
Children's Administration